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**JORDAN'S CROWN PRINCE A LIKABLE STUDENT, SAYS
FORMER CLASSMATE; EXPERT COMMENTS ON HIS SUCCESSION**

CROWN PRINCE AN UNKNOWN — That King Hussein "appears to have laid an inadequate framework, and in hasty fashion, for his line of succession could provoke instability in Jordan, particularly within the royal family," says Margaret Karns, a professor of political science at the University of Dayton.

Karns, who was alluding to late Jordanian leader's renouncement of his brother Hassan as crown prince in favor of Hussein's son, says, "Abdullah is virtually unknown outside the Jordanian military. His anonymity could be an extreme disadvantage especially in an area of the world that has been unstable anyway."

Karns, an expert in international politics, says king Abdullah's biggest challenge will be in how he participates in the Middle East peace process. "Abdullah's succession has both an internal dimension, in terms of how the Jordanian people feel about their country's participation in the peace process, and the ability of a new ruler to protect their own interests, as well as the larger picture dealing with the volatility of the peace process overall."

Karns says there may be an advantageous scenario to Abdullah's succession. "If Hussein's gut instinct was right, that his brother was not right for succession and that his son was, then there could be advantages accrued from that. He may have greater knowledge and diplomatic skill than people give him credit for. It depends on what and how much he's learned from his father."

For media interviews, contact **Margaret Karns** at work (937) 229-3538, at home (937) 299-5354 or via e-mail at karns@riker.stjoe.udayton.edu.

FORMER CLASSMATE RECALLS CROWN PRINCE — Jordan's new king, Abdullah, brought the Koran to class before a final exam, recalls Tim Bete, a former Deerfield Academy classmate. "He wasn't pretentious about it. In fact, he seemed quite sincere. His faith seemed important to him."

Bete, a University of Dayton development writer, attended the prestigious Massachusetts prep school for boys with Abdullah from 1977-80. He says his royal classmate was a "quiet, likable guy who just seemed to fit in with everyone. Someone in his position might be tempted to flaunt the family name. Abdullah wasn't like that — he was very down to earth."

Bete also recalls the lack of privacy Abdullah had through school as a member of a royal family. "He was constantly being followed by two bodyguards. I felt sorry for him because they never left his side."

Bete recalls a motto inscribed under a statue of one of school's headmasters — "Be Worthy of Your Heritage." He adds, "Abdullah's certainly doing that."

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